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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Lee

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(54) **ZAMIOCULCAS PLANT NAMED ‘DOWON’**

(50) Latin Name: *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*
Varietal Denomination: **Dowon**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 195 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/330,414**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 16, 2016**

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A01H 5/12 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./373**
CPC **A01H 5/12** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC Plt./373, 379

CPC A01H 5/12

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOVROM Plant Variety Database citation for ‘Dowon’ as per QZ PBR 20150379; Feb. 16, 2015; 1 page.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new variety of *Zamioculcas* plant named ‘Dowon’ that is characterized by an erect vase-shaped habit, and stiffly-held compound, glossy leaves which emerge mid-green maturing to black, is described.

8 Drawing Sheets

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Genus and species: *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*.
Variety denomination: ‘Dowon’.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A Community Plant Variety Rights application was filed with the Community Plant Variety Office of Feb. 16, 2015, File Number 2015/0379; and Plant Breeders Rights were granted for this variety with the Department of Plant Variety Protection—Korea Forest Service on Dec. 26, 2013, Registration Number 4721. This variety has not been made publicly available or sold more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present variety relates to a new and distinct variety of *Zamioculcas* commonly known as Aroid Palm or ZZ Plant. The new variety is known botanically as *Zamioculcas zamiifolia* and will be referred to hereinafter by the name ‘Dowon’.

Zamioculcas is a succulent plant with dark green glossy compound leaves which stores water in its thick petioles. *Zamioculcas* is native to tropical and sub-tropical east and southeast Africa and only one species, *zamiifolia*, is known. *Zamioculcas* is grown and used as a tropical or indoor foliage plant.

Zamioculcas plants grow from an underground tuber which also comprises the stem. All of the growth above ground consists of erect or semi-erect large pinnately compound leaves borne on stiff petioles. Each leaflet within the compound leaf is attached to a central rachis. The attachment is typically sessile or minutely petiolulate.

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The new *Zamioculcas* variety named ‘Dowon’ was discovered in 2006 as a naturally occurring branch mutation by the inventor at the inventor’s nursery in Segok-dong, Seoul, South Korea. The inventor observed that a single unnamed plant of typically green-foliaged *Zamioculcas* had produced on one of its compound leaves a set of leaflets with uncharacteristically very dark green coloration, tending to darken further as the leaflets expanded. When fully expanded, the leaflets, rachis and petiole became entirely black or near-black. *Zamioculcas* may be propagated from individual leaflet cuttings. The inventor continued to observe the original plant for many months before carrying out the first asexual propagation in 2006 using black leaflets. The inventor was interested to know if the black leaflets would root and would produce new plants with the same characteristic of leaf blackening. The inventor observed that new foliage growth from the rooted black leaflets first emerged typically green in color but became black or nearly black as the compound leaf expanded and matured.

The inventor has repeated this process of reproduction from black leaves and has determined that the development of black plants as herein described is consistent. The inventor has determined that ‘Dowon’ reproduces true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction via leaflet cuttings.

SUMMARY

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new *Zamioculcas* variety named ‘Dowon’. In combination these traits set ‘Dowon’ apart from its species and from all other varieties of *Zamioculcas* known to the inventor. ‘Dowon’ has not been tested under all possible conditions and phe-